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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

September 28, 2005

Mr. Robert B. Stephan
Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Mr. Stephan:

Pursuant to its authority under Rule XXV(k)(1) of the Standing Rules of the Senate, Section 101 of S. Res 445 (108th Congress), and Section 11(e) of S. Res 50 (109th Congress), the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has initiated an investigation into the Nation's preparedness for, and response to, Hurricane Katrina. To aid in this investigation, we request that the National Communications System ("NCS") provide the committee (in accordance with the attached definitions and instructions) the following information and documents:

1. Describe each of the National Communications System's roles, responsibilities and authorities in preparing for and responding to domestic emergencies. With respect to each specific role, responsibility or authority, please identify:

- a. The statutory, regulatory or other source for that role, responsibility or authority;
- b. The component or components within the NCS involved in acting pursuant to that authority or discharging that role and responsibility;
- c. The key personnel involved in acting pursuant to that authority or discharging that role and responsibility from August 23, 2005 to the present.

To the extent that sources identified in response to subpart (a) are not publicly available, please provide copies of them.

2. An organizational chart of the National Communications System and any of its components involved in preparing for or responding to a domestic emergency and identify the individuals holding the key leadership and operational positions from August 23, 2005 to the present.

3. What tasks is the National Communications System charged with undertaking under the National Response Plan, and under what chain of command and statutory authority are those tasks carried out?

4. Describe the process by which National Communications System personnel and assets are directed to prepare for, and deploy to respond to, a domestic emergency under both Stafford Act and non-Stafford Act situations and identify the organizations and individuals involved.

5. Copies of all after-action reports or other assessments prepared since September 11, 2001, assessing the performance of National Communications System elements, personnel, or programs in response to emergencies, or exercises related to preparation for such emergencies, including but not limited to previous hurricanes.

6. Detail (including specific dates, times, and the personnel involved) how and when the National Communications System was first informed of the following events:

- a. That it would need to prepare for Hurricane Katrina
- b. That the President issued emergency declarations for Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama with respect to Katrina.
- c. That the President issued major disaster declarations for Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama with respect to Katrina.
- d. That Hurricane Katrina was an Incident of National Significance.
- e. That the National Response Plan was activated.

7. What specific actions, if any, did the NCS take prior to the hurricane's landfall to place personnel or assets on alert or to pre-position them to respond to the event and (a) identify the personnel involved, (b) the time and date that actions were taken, (c) the authority under which these actions were taken, and (d) the information or warnings on which they were based?

8. What additional actions, if any, did the NCS take after landfall, but prior to the declaration of the hurricane as an "Incident of National Significance" by the Secretary of Homeland Security on August 30, to place personnel or assets on alert or to pre-position them to respond to the event? Identify the personnel involved and the time and date that actions were taken. On what authority were these actions taken? And on what information or warnings were they based?

9. The version of the National Plan for Telecommunications Support in Non-Wartime Emergencies used between August 23 and September 6, 2005.

10. All communications between the DHS/IAIP/NCS Regional Manager and FEMA, the private sector, and Federal, State and local officials related to Hurricane Katrina between August 23 and the time that the Regional Manager assumed the duties of the Federal Emergency Communications Coordinator for Hurricane Katrina.

11. All communications between the Federal Emergency Communications Coordinator and FEMA, Federal, State and local officials, and the private sector related to Hurricane Katrina between August 23 and September 6, 2005.

12. Any documents or records of communications related to or the anticipation of Hurricane Katrina produced or received by the National Communications System.

13. Any documents or records of communications related to informing, notifying, or educating Federal, State and local officials and the private sector about possible assistance, relief, recovery and reconstitution efforts available for damages to the telecommunications infrastructure as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

14. All guidelines, policies, plans, and procedures developed and issued since September 11, 2001, related to the assessment, allocation and coordination of government and industry telecommunications assets in the event of a domestic incident, including region-specific catastrophic disaster planning documents for Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama.
15. All plans, procedures, and policies related to the identification and acquisition of telecommunications assets available for use in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, including assets not within the Hurricane Katrina-affected area that could be deployed to the affected area.
16. Any documents and records of communications related to planning and actions taken by commercial telecommunications companies related to support, recovery, restoration and reconstitution of telecommunication services, facilities, operations, and capabilities in preparation for and response to Hurricane Katrina.
17. Any documents and records of communications related to the support, recovery, restoration and reconstitution of National Security/Emergency Preparedness telecommunications services, assets, equipment, and capabilities from August 23, 2005 to the present.
18. Any documents, manuals, plans, policies or guidance, including Standard Operating Procedures, developed by the NCS since September 11, 2001, related to National Security/Emergency Preparedness telecommunications and response.

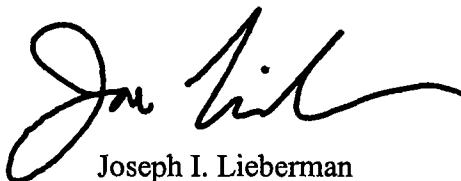
We request that these documents and information be provided as they become available but no later than October 27, 2005. If you or your staff have any questions concerning this request please contact Allison Boyd of the Committee's majority staff at 202-224-4751 or David Barton of the Committee's minority staff at 202-224-2627.

We thank you and your staff in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
Chairman



Joseph I. Lieberman
Ranking Member